The Highlander

Thursday Jan 29 2026 | Issue 724

INSIDE: COUNTY CENTENARIAN LIVING HER BEST LIFE PAGE 15

FREE

Who let the dogs out

The Haliburton Highlands Dog Sled Derby made its triumphant return Jan. 24-25 following a six-year hiatus. Mushers from all over the region descended upon Pinestone Resort over the weekend, including Mia Beatty, who competed in the six-dog race. *Photo by Michah Wilson.*

Fearrey makes it official: not running again

By Mike Baker

An automated phone survey has been doing the rounds in Haliburton for the past week, asking people questions about current Dysart et al council members and potential future candidates – with one of those singled out distancing himself from making another run for public office.

Mayor Murray Fearrey confirmed in a Jan. 26 interview he will not seek re-election this fall, instead calling time on a political career that has spanned almost five decades.

"If I told you there's unfinished business and I was going to run again, you'd kill yourself laughing," Fearrey told *The Highlander.* "Look, I'm 84 years old… I've had a good run, but I can definitively say I won't [seek re-election]."

Fearrey was one of four elected officials mentioned in the survey, alongside deputy mayor Walt McKechnie, Ward 1 coun. Pat Casey and Ward 5 coun. Barry Boice. The question was a general one, asking people what they thought about each of them and the job they've done since being elected in October 2022.

Haliburton resident Sean Pennylegion said he learned about the survey from Barrie Martin, a fellow volunteer with the Haliburton Highlands Democracy Project, at a Jan. 15 Telling Our Stories Speaker Series event. Pennylegion ignored three automated calls the night before but picked up and stuck with it when they called back Jan. 16.

"It started with federal, asking people to pick the most favourable person out of, I think, five options – Jamie [Schmale, current MP for Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes] was mentioned, as was Nell [Thomas, the Liberal candidate in the April 2025 federal election]… then there were questions about provincial politics and municipal," Pennylegion said.

"It was interesting though that it only asked about Dysart et al, and only four names were mentioned from the current council… it seemed pretty targeted," he added.

Pennylegion wondered if the survey was focusing on incumbents in leadership positions and those considering a run for higher office. He said this was the first time he had ever received a robocall for municipal politics.

Continued **'Robocall'** on page 2

Highlander news

Robocall wants to know Dysart favourites

Continued from page 1

McKechnie said he heard about the survey last week. He told *The Highlander* that, while he hasn't made a final decision he's leaning towards running again in October's election, though is unsure in what capacity.

"It's still a long ways away, but the way my mind feels right now I definitely feel like I'd like to contribute," the deputy mayor said.

Coming up to the end of his first term on Dysart council Boice indicated he wants to run again, though hasn't decided for what role.

"At the very least I think I would run again for my ward," Boice said. Asked for his thoughts on the robocall, he added, "it'd be interesting to know where it came from."

Online records via YellowPages indicate the phone number used in at least two calls is operated by Iristel Inc., a Markham-based telecommunications company. The landline is located in the Ottawa-Hull region. Efforts to reach Iristel were unsuccessful as of press time. Casey could also not be reached for comment.

Dysart's three other elected officials not mentioned in the survey - Ward 2 coun. Nancy Wood-Roberts, Ward 3 coun. Tammy Donaldson and Ward 4 coun. Carm Sawyer – weighed in, with Donaldson and Sawyer confirming they intend to seek re-election in their wards, while Wood-Roberts is unsure.

"I got the call and so started asking around to see if others had heard about it – I'd love to know what it's all about," Donaldson said.

Sawyer said he, too, received a call. "The first time I got it, I hung up on it. Then it comes through again and again, so I answered and went all the way through… it was interesting the local questions were strictly Dysart but only mentioned half [of the current council]. I don't know who got it started, if it's some special interest group, or what the deal is."

Dysart et al mayor Murray Fearrey confirmed he will not seek another term in office. *File.*

Wood-Roberts was the only councillor to say she had not heard about the survey.

Soliciting candidates

Pennylegion said the last question in the survey named two prominent community members not currently serving on council – Andrew Hodgson and Greg Bishop.

"It just asked how I would view them in terms of a political run – it didn't mention whether they were thinking about municipal, provincial or federal. It was just looking for my reaction to the names," Pennylegion said.

While Hodgson, a local realtor with Century21, has a history in provincial politics - he was executive director of the Progressive Conservative Party of Ontario from 2002 to 2004 and chief of staff to the leader of the official opposition from 2004 to 2006 – he told *The Highlander* he has no aspirations to run in any capacity.

"I'm not running for anything – I have no plans to seek election in Dysart. I like the group we currently have. I like the additions of Pat, Barry and Carm this term, I think they're trying their best," said Hodgson, who says he hadn't heard of the survey before *The Highlander* reached out to him.

It was the same for Bishop, who expressed surprise at his name coming up. While he said he's always wanted to get involved in local politics, his busy career as a civil engineer and Ontario Land Surveyor prevented him from making a run. Recently retired, he said he's undecided on running this fall.

Kindergarten registration opens for school-aged children across TLDSB

Parents with young children set to start school in the fall have been given a month to register with their local school board.

Trillium Lakelands District School Board (TLDSB) issued a notice Jan. 22, opening registration for both junior and senior kindergarten programs across the district. Parents are being asked to roster their kids by Feb. 27.

"September may seem like a far ways away, but it's important for TLDSB to know how many students are enrolled so that staffing and spaces for the upcoming school year can be made," the notice states.

The school board says programs are available at all public elementary schools in Haliburton County, as well as Muskoka and Kawartha Lakes. They are available to all children turning four in 2026.

Parents can visit the kindergarten registration page on the TLDSB website to register and learn more about the program, available at tldsb.ca/kindergarten-registration.

"Kindergarten-aged children grow through play-based learning and small group instruction with caring educators," TLDSB says. "Students will learn about language and math, engage in healthy physical activities and the arts, and develop socially and emotionally through interaction with their peers and educators who guide them."

Student placement is determined by their home address, with TLDSB encouraging parents to use the school locator through mybustoschool.ca to find the closest school. *(Mike Baker)*

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Highlander news

OPP plan to crack down on re-offenders

By Lisa Gervais

OPP detachment commander Deb McClure. *Photo by Lisa Gervais.*

Haliburton Highlands OPP say they want to crack down on people reoffending in the community when already facing charges, or having been convicted of a crime.

In their action plan for 2026-2029, discussed at the police detachment board meeting Jan. 21, board chair Andrew Fletcher said Staff Sgt. Deb McClure wants her members to focus on offender management.

"We've heard a lot of that around the province, about the arrest and bail provisions and the catch-and-release scenarios, but actually focusing on some proactive engagement where we're looking at those judicial conditions people have on them and going after them as far as spending some time and some effort and some energy on ensuring compliance."

Fletcher said it means increased checks and working with probation and parole. He also said they can track it statistically. "So, for example, if we know we have 10 offenders out on release and when we do our compliance checks, we have 70 per cent of them at home when they are supposed to be."

McClure added each detachment is getting an officer specifically assigned to the program who will work with partners, such as probation, parole, and Crown attorneys.

Fletcher said, "if we actually check on the individuals, and make sure they're home when they're supposed to be home with curfew hours; and make sure they're complying with their bail conditions; hopefully the word gets out amongst the offenders in the community that we're going to be doing that, that will hopefully drive that compliance. Not with all offenders, but some offenders just continue to reoffend. If we can make sure they are not reoffending it keeps our community safe."

The three pillars of the plan are crime; roadways, waterways and trails; and community well-being.

Actionables under the crime category also include: training and mentorship so police can better tackle trends impacting our community. They also want to do a better job of letting the public know what those trends are. With property crime, they want better coordination and more timely response. They also want to crack down on opioid use in the Highlands.

McClure said the plan outlines "commitments, actions, and desired outcomes" over the next four years.

The detachment commander said they had a "comprehensive" consultation process with "key stakeholders" such as board members, did a public survey, and held a town hall (which was sparsely attended).

"This action plan has been thoughtfully developed to address the evolving needs of our communities and to ensure the delivery of an effective, responsive, and high-quality police service for all who live in and visit Haliburton County," McClure said.

Fletcher added, "we are confident that this plan will address the current and emerging concerns identified through consultation with the communities we represent. We believe this plan strikes a suitable balance of addressing crime and preventing victimization, while ensuring resources focus on road, trail and waterway safety, along with expanding on our commitment of engagement and partnerships that enhance community well-being.

Roads, waterways, trails

When it comes to roads, lakes and trails, OPP are committed to a number of actions. For example, they want more local expertise in specialized traffic enforcement. They want to continue to focus on impaired driving, distracted driving, speeding and aggressive driving, as well as lack of seatbelt use; and educating the public better. Further, they want to be out on all terrain vehicles and motorized snow vehicles trails year-round and waterways in summer.

As for well-being, they want to interact more with youth, including structured and unstructured programming; spread the word about OPP and auxiliary jobs locally; and better help with mental health issues, substance abuse and addictions, persons with disabilities, homeless, and working to reduce gender-based violence and hate-motivated crime.

During the meeting, board member Bob Carter's question about impaired driving was answered by McClure.

She said one-quarter of all charges in 2025 were by drug alone, or a combination of drugs and alcohol, while 75 per cent were alcohol impairment.

Carter said, "I think that's something that should be tracked over time. Not really certain what we do with it. May be of interest, may show that there's some changing social demographics going on."

Fletcher agreed saying the need for drug recognition experts would have staffing implications for local OPP. McClure said she recently met with staff from Haliburton hospital about drug-related protocols.

The plan is on the agenda of the police services board meeting for Jan. 21, 2026.

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Highlander news

Winds of change blowing again at HHHS

By Mike Baker

Haliburton Highlands Health Services (HHHS) has announced another change to its senior leadership team.

In a Jan. 21 media release, the organization noted chief financial officer, Ulvi Iskhagi-Bayat, will soon be leaving the organization after two years in the role. He joined the organization in April 2024 and oversaw HHHS' first balanced budget since the COVID-19 pandemic, achieved in the 2024-25 fiscal year.

Jennifer Burns West, interim president and CEO at HHHS, said Iskhagi-Bayat was a stabilizing presence during his time with the organization.

"During his tenure, Ulvi played a critical role in strengthening our financial stewardship, guiding the organization through periods of change, and supporting strategic decision-making with professionalism, insight and integrity," Burns West said. "His healthcare expertise, strong financial acumen and commitment to our mission have made a lasting and meaningful impact across the organization.

"Moments of transition such as this remind us of the meaningful impact individuals have on our work and the importance of continuity as we move forward together," she added.

HHHS did not state when Iskhagi-Bayat would be leaving, though has moved quickly to confirm his immediate successor.

Burns West said Brian Winder will assume the role of interim financial officer. She said Winder boasts "extensive financial experience" having held senior finance leadership roles at Bluewater Health in Sarnia, the Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA) and, most recently, Ross Memorial Hospital in Lindsay, where he served for over 12 years as director of finance and chief financial officer.

"We are fortunate to have an established relationship with Brian, who has been supporting HHHS through a recent upgrade of our financial systems," Burns West said. HHHS will begin its search for a permanent CFO once its new president and CEO, Jack Hutchison, begins his role March 30.

Brian Winder has been named HHHS interim financial officer. *Submitted.*

Notice of Application for Approval to Expropriate Land

Form 2
Expropriations Act

IN THE MATTER OF the proposed expropriation of land by the Minister of Transportation, in the Geographic Township of Lutterworth, Corporation of the Township of Minden Hills, County of Haliburton, Province of Ontario.

FOR THE PURPOSE OF culvert replacement, rockfall hazard improvements and future rehabilitation and maintenance of King's Highway 35 and all other works related thereto.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that application has been made for approval to expropriate the land described in the schedule attached hereto.

The approving authority is the Minister of Transportation with an address of:

Minister of Transportation
777 Bay Street, 5th Floor
Toronto, ON M7A 1Z8
416-327-9200

Any owner of lands in respect of which notice is given, who desires to comment on the proposed expropriation of the land for the described purpose(s) may do so by submitting the comment within the time stated herein to the Assistant Deputy Minister, Transportation Infrastructure Management Division, Ministry of Transportation, in writing.

The Ministry will review the comments for their technical/engineering information, having regard to the need for the land for the purposes of the project.

The Assistant Deputy Minister must receive the comments within thirty days after the owner is served with this notice, or within thirty days after the first publication of the notice.

The comments must be sent:

By e-mail to: Property.Process@ontario.ca

Or by mail to: Assistant Deputy Minister
Transportation and Infrastructure Management
Ministry of Transportation
4th Floor, Garden City Tower
301 St. Paul Street
St. Catharines, ON L2R 7R4

Please include the municipal address of the land in the comment.

The expropriating authority is the Minister of Transportation with an address of:

777 Bay Street, 5th Floor
Toronto, ON M7A 1Z8
416-327-9200

Minister of Transportation

Per: *"original signed by Cristina Makitalo"*

c/o Cristina Makitalo
Conveyancing Supervisor
447 McKeown Avenue, Suite 301
North Bay, ON P1B 9S9

SCHEDULE A

All right, title and interest in the lands described as follows:

1. Part of PIN 39254-0178 (LT); Part of Lot 27, Concession 5, Geographic Township of Lutterworth, Corporation of the Township of Minden Hills, County of Haliburton; Designated as Part 1 on 19R-11127 (Ministry Plan P-2789-184). Part 1 is subject to easement as in H43977.
2. Part of PIN 39208-0181 (LT); Part of Lot 15, Concession 8, Geographic Township of Lutterworth, Corporation of the Township of Minden Hills, County of Haliburton; Designated as Part 1 on 19R-11124 (Ministry Plan P-2789-187).
3. Part of PIN 39254-0177 (LT); Part of Lot 27, Concession 5, Geographic Township of Lutterworth, Corporation of the Township of Minden Hills, County of Haliburton; Designated as Part 2 on 19R-11127 (Ministry Plan P-2789-184)

All right, title and interest for a limited period from January 1, 2026, up to and including December 31, 2031, in the lands described as follows:

1. Part of PIN 39254-0183 (LT); Part of Lot 27, Concession 5, Geographic Township of Lutterworth, Corporation of the Township of Minden Hills, County of Haliburton; Designated as Parts 1 & 2 on 19R-11126 (Ministry Plan P-2789-183). Part 2 is subject to Easement as in H246325.
2. Part of PIN 39254-0185 (LT); Part of Lot 27, Concession 5, Geographic Township of Lutterworth, Corporation of the Township of Minden Hills, County of Haliburton; Designated as Part 3 on 19R-11126 (Ministry Plan P-2789-183).
3. Part of PIN 39208-0066 (LT); Part of Lot 19, Concession 7, Geographic Township of Lutterworth, Corporation of the Township of Minden Hills, County of Haliburton; Designated as Part 1 on 19R-11123 (Ministry Plan P-2789-185).
4. Part of PIN 39208-0067 (LT); Part of Lots 18 and 19, Concession 7, Geographic Township of Lutterworth, Corporation of the Township of Minden Hills, County of Haliburton; Designated as Part 1 on 19R-11125 (Ministry Plan P-2789-186). Part 1 is subject to Easement as in H70717.
5. Part of PIN 39255-0164 (LT); Part of Lots 18 and 19, Concession 7, Geographic Township of Lutterworth, Corporation of the Township of Minden Hills, County of Haliburton; Designated as Part 2 on 19R-11125 (Ministry Plan P-2789-186).

THIS NOTICE WAS FIRST PUBLISHED ON: JANUARY 15, 2026.

Ontario

Highlander news

Interior renderings of the new Lochlin Community Centre. *Courtesy of Quantum Passivhaus.*

MINDEN HILLS NEWS

'Show and tell' for new hall

Minden builders, Quantum Passivhaus, came to council's Jan. 22 meeting for what township CAO Cynthia Fletcher called a "show and tell" for the proposed new Lochlin Community Centre.

Co-founder Angela Horner attended the meeting, with Fletcher saying the consultants were also meeting with the Lochlin Community Centre Advisory Committee Jan. 27.

She termed last week's delegation, "a little show and tell for council," while saying all details of the build had not yet been worked out.

Quantum Passivhaus is based in Minden and employs more than 20 people. It is the consultant for the pre-fabricated Lochlin structure, to replace the one that has been torn down.

The company brought renderings for council to see what the new just under 1,800-square-foot hall will look like.

Horner said it was a cost effective and energy efficient build. She added the placement of windows on the south and west walls will provide a welcoming environment for people coming in and offer views inside and outside. There will be garden doors for access in and out during events. She noted the slope of the roof is away from the entrance so no concern about falling snow and ice. A service door will allow for delivery without disturbing functions. There is a kitchen, accessible washrooms, and storage. Chalkboards from the original hall have been incorporated into the design.

It is hoped the new hall will be complete for use in the summer.

Coun. Pam Sayne said she was excited they were using a local contractor. "This is as local as you get." She was particularly pleased knowing the new build would be energy efficient.

Council challenges mayor on budget

There's a special meeting Jan. 29 as council is proposing to override eight veto decisions made by mayor Bob Carter as part of his Strong Mayors budget.

Carter's vetoes include: wanting to proceed with an organics program for the township ($39,000) as well as a new bulldozer for Scotch Line ($150,000); keeping in a pickup truck for the roads department ($120,000) as well as hiring a roads labourer ($80,000); holding off on riverwalk lighting; not putting $50,000 into the budget to do something at the old fire hall; and not using tax dollars for sidewalk and crosswalk work, but using surplus and/or reserves.

The meeting is at 9 a.m. People can attend in person, at 7 Milne St., or watch electronically via the live-stream link, available at the top of the agenda located on the Minden Hills CivicWeb Portal at https://mindenhills.civicweb.net/Portal/.

Cultural centre gift shop

The Minden Hills Cultural Centre Foundation (MHCCF) is proposing to enter a partnership with the Minden Hills Cultural Centre (MHCC) to manage the inventory of the gift shop located inside the main entrance of the Agnes Jamieson Gallery.

This is instead of transferring of full operations of the gift shop to MHCCF, which was passed at a May 26, 2022, regular council meeting.

Liz McGowan, on behalf of the board, told council, "the MHCCF has determined it is not cost effective to take on the full operation of the gift shop due to the additional cost of a separate Point of Sale system and the limited volunteer resources to staff the gift shop.

"The partnership arrangement as proposed is mutually beneficial to the MHCC and MHCCF as the township staff doesn't have the ability to source inventory of the gift shop. The MHCCF believes it can provide new inventory to the gift shop as it has developed connections to local artisans through management of the summer Minden Hills artisan market."

All revenue generated from gift shop sales are used to support MHCC activities, including events such as Family Day, special purchases, and art restoration initiatives.

Fletcher said staff would review operational impacts and report back to council.

(Minden Hills news compiled by Lisa Gervais).

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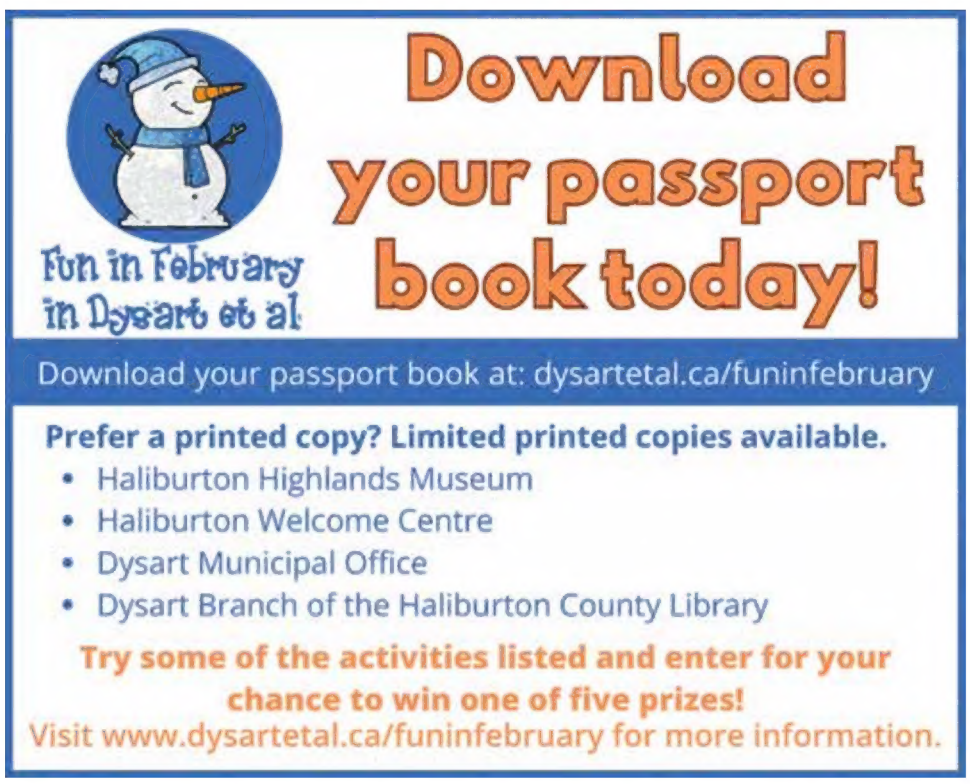


READ THE HIGHLANDER. ANYWHERE.

Keeping people out of the cold

By Mike Baker

Two people from Haliburton County were shuttled to Lindsay this past weekend as part of a program designed to keep folks off the streets during extreme weather.

With temperatures plummeting as low as -15 degrees Celsius Jan. 24, feeling like -38 C with the wind chill, the joint Out of the Cold program offered by the County of Haliburton and City of Kawartha Lakes was offering emergency shelter to people in need across the region.

The initiative relaunched Dec. 1 and will run until March 31, with Michelle Corley, human services manager for housing with Kawartha Lakes – the County's social services provider – saying temporary shelter is available to people experiencing homelessness whenever temperatures fall below -10 C, or a significant winter weather event is declared.

Both of those parameters occurred last weekend. A cold weather system from the Arctic hit most of southern Ontario, with Lakelands Public Health issuing a cold weather warning for the County Jan. 23. The public health unit said the plummeting temperature significantly increases the risk of frostbite and hypothermia to people stuck outdoors.

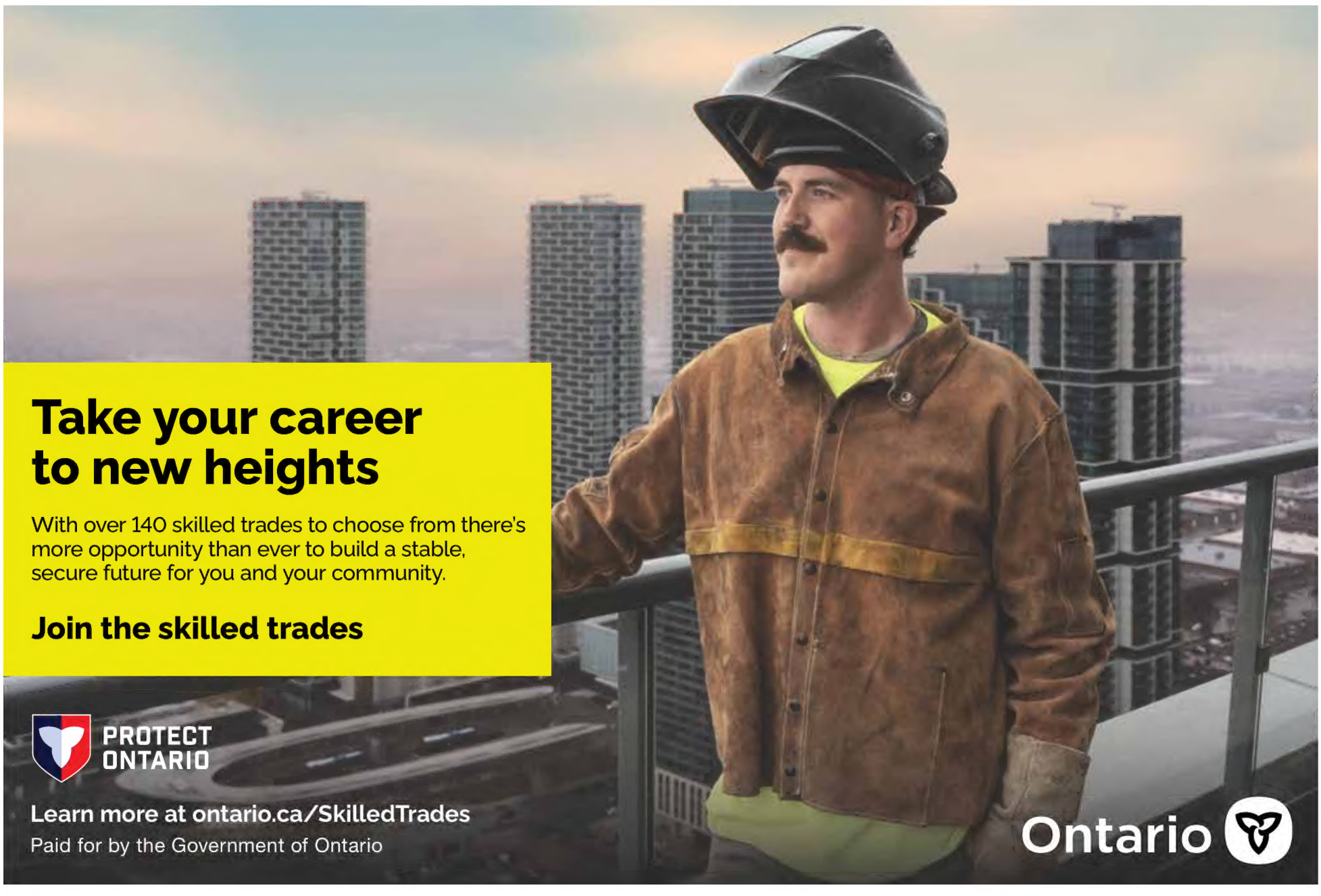
Kawartha Lakes and the County partners with non-profit A Place Called Home for the program, with the group boasting a 30-bed emergency shelter in Lindsay. If full, Corley said people are put up in motels. Transportation options are available to people in the County.

"Given the recent period of extreme cold, our priority is ensuring that anyone who needs emergency shelter is able to access it," Corley said. "The city's outreach staff, who support individuals across the County experiencing homelessness or precarious housing, are actively checking in on those at greatest risk."

Corley said as of November, the city was working with 10 people known to be staying in trailers or cabins in the County. This winter, the program has supported 12 people from the County, providing shelter over 81 nights.

Last year, 20 people from the County utilized the program, Corley confirmed.

Anyone requiring support can contact A Place Called Home directly at 705-328-0905



Highlander news

Use of St. Stephen's gazebo debated

By Mike Baker

While Algonquin Highlands council appeared to support calls from the public to allow families to utilize the new gazebo at St. Stephen's Cemetery as a gathering space for funeral ceremonies, they have deferred making a final decision pending further talks with local funeral directors and the Bereavement Authority of Ontario.

Township staffer Sarah Hutson brought a policy to a Jan. 15 council meeting, outlining how the structure can be used by the public. One of the key recommendations was to not allow caskets to be placed under the gazebo for a ceremony prior to burial in the recently-opened green burial section.

"The intention for the gazebo was to create a quiet, respectful space within the cemetery for reflection and contemplation, an area that any member of the community… may visit and appreciate," Hutson wrote in her report.

"The development of this policy is important to limit the potential risks associated with the gazebo's use, including safety concerns, liability considerations, and conflicts that may arise from unregulated activities."

Under the policy, caskets carrying human remains would be required to be moved directly from a hearse to the burial site – with no allowance for it to be placed temporarily within the gazebo for any ceremony.

Terry Moore, president of the Haliburton Highlands Green Burial Society – which purchased and donated the gazebo to the township last year, said he wanted to see the policy altered to allow families to hold services in the gazebo.

He noted how, in March 2025, his family utilized the space for a private service before his wife, Shirley, was buried there.

Algonquin Highlands council is contemplating further changes to its policy around green burials and the use of the gazebo at St. Stephen's Cemetery. *File.*

"There were 13 members of our immediate family present… everyone took a seat on the benches and took turns sharing a short personal story about a memorable encounter with Shirley. It lasted maybe 30 minutes, after that the pallbearers moved the casket to the grave site for burial," Moore said. "I can't tell you how meaningful that opportunity was for my family and we would like to see the same thing extended to other families."

He said utilizing the gazebo was the only way his 97-year-old mother could say a proper goodbye, noting she would not have been able to deliver her message at the gravesite.

Hutson said safety was one of the primary concerns, noting cemetery staff are the ones responsible for moving the coffin to the gravesite, assuming all risk during the process. Transporting coffins from site-to-site, especially during the winter months, carries extra risk, she noted.

Moore suggested families could seek approval from township staff before using the gazebo. Coun. Sabrina Richards, mayor Liz Danielsen and deputy mayor Jennifer Dailloux appeared supportive of the request, though called on staff to consult with local funeral directors – who, Hutson noted, are responsible for leading internments.

Moore also took issue with the policy stipulating the township reserves the right to limit the number of attendees at gatherings, though Hutson noted that would only be enforced during harsh winter weather, when space is at a premium.

Council discussed whether all taxpayers should be allowed to utilize the gazebo for services – not just those observing a green burial. Richards noted, since the gazebo is now a municipal asset, the township should not discriminate on who can use it.

CAO Angie Bird pointed out that, since the gazebo can be utilized by anyone at any time and, currently, cannot be booked for services, there's potential for conflicts.

"It could happen where somebody is using the gazebo at the time somebody else wants to use it for a burial – it's not likely, but it could happen… in that situation, it wouldn't be up to the township to say, 'you have to leave'," Bird said.

The policy was deferred pending further discussions with stakeholders.

At the meeting, it was also noted the Friends of St. Stephen's was donating $1,929.65 to the township to go towards the future purchase of a columbarium at the cemetery. The money was leftover funds the group had after turning over ownership of the church building to the township last year.

Councillors made connections at ROMA

By Lisa Gervais

Navigating the "labyrinth" of provincial government grants for infrastructure in growing rural communities was just one topic a Haliburton County representative to the Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA) conference raised with the Ontario government.

Minden mayor Bob Carter said the topic was part of an official delegation to the Ministry of Rural Affairs during the Jan. 18-20 conference in Toronto. He said they want the ministry to understand the problems small, rural communities are experiencing with population growth, for example, and the need to upgrade older water and sewer systems.

"There are often many grants and/or loans available from the government, but not in one place, but many different ministries." Carter said it was a "labyrinth" finding out what's available and how to get at it. He said they asked for help in finding the right grants and getting their applications across the finish line.

"All ministries don't always play well with others. It is more of a challenge than it sounds. We had a successful delegation and hopefully they can help us in the future."

Carter said ROMA is a good conference for Highlands' townships, when compared to the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, which caters to urban centres.

Coun. Ivan Ingram said he found other municipalities were facing the exact same problems as Minden Hils, and "a lot comes to funding from the provincial government."

Carter added, "one of the things that is starting to get attention is amalgamation. I talked to a lot of people, where they had 700 or 1,000 people in the whole community. Even our neighbour, Hastings, has 14 townships, that vary from Belleville to very small communities."

He said another topic was homelessness. "There was an eight per cent increase year over year in the homelessness situation," which he believes could be underreported. He said his hope is that communities try various strategies and strike something that works.

Coun. Pam Sayne sits on the board of ROMA and said they had 2,000 people representing more than 300 of Ontario's 444 municipalities at the conference. She said it's all about making connections for your community and region, which can put a town such as Minden Hills on the province's map, and have it grant-ready.

She said one of her goals is to have Haliburton County become even more of a centre for excellence in arts and culture.

She said other key ROMA policies include working towards a new provincial-municipal fiscal framework, which she said is 100 years old and "not working, especially with all the downloads such as OPP and housing etc.

"The rural communities need bigger changes in addressing the infrastructure challenges. We can't just keep paying. When you look at our population compared to the roads, we're taking care of, we cannot continue to do that on the backs of taxpayers in our small communities."

She said they have long lobbied for better access to healthcare and better broadband.

Carter said the OPP billing formula remains a thorn in municipalities' sides, with costs having gone up 11 per cent this year with no sign of decreases in future. He added there is huge variation of per household costs for policing across the province. He said policing costs are growing, but questions whether some of the mental health work done by police should be done by, or at least funded by, the Ministry of Health.

He added the rising cost "is not something that is going to go away easily."

Minden Hills coun. Pam Sayne sits on the ROMA board. *Photo by Lisa Gervais.*

Editorial opinion

TheHighlander
Published by The Highlander Newspaper Limited

OUR MISSION

To tell the story of Haliburton County each week.

To be a source of information and inspiration through stories and ideas.

To report on issues, people and events important to the community.

To reflect and promote pride in the culture, people and landscape of The Highlands.

To encourage Highlanders to believe in themselves, in our community, and in their power to make our place in the world better every day.

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Drive safe

By Lisa Gervais

I'm accustomed to reporting the news; not being a part of it.

Some of you may have heard about the nine-vehicle collision on Hwy. 35 just north of Lindsay last Friday. My partner and I were in one of those vehicles.

The blowing fields delivered a whiteout. We had to decide: do we pull over to the side of the road? That didn't seem safe as we would have been invisible and feared someone would hit us. So, we carried on, slowing down, ensuring our lights were on.

Close to Thunder Bridge Road – not that we could see the sign, or the road for that matter – the car in front of us pulled up. My partner braked and we began a slow slide. No amount of slowly pumping the brakes was going to stop us as we slid on ice and hit the car in front. Not hard. Just enough for us to both curse that our trip to the GTA to get my partner on the train to Billy Bishop Airport might be impacted.

That thought quickly left as our car was rammed from behind, pushing us towards a field.

When we stopped moving, we did not know if we were still on the road, so both jumped out of the vehicle. We had ditched our coats at the beginning of the drive. We both scrambled to get outerwear on in a cold, swirling maelstrom.

I felt okay. I had not hit my head or blacked out. My neck had definitely whiplashed from the impact. We were both mobile. Then, we had another decision to make. Do we stay at the side of the road? The snow cleared momentarily and we could just make out the Petro Canada gas station across the highway. We decided that was the safer option. But crossing a highway in a whiteout was a leap of faith. What if we got hit by a car that surely could not see us?

Something, or someone, looked out for us as we safely made it across. On entering the gas station, the staff quickly rushed to offer us water, coffee, and a safe haven in the storm. I was in shock, shaking as I poured myself a hot drink. The next couple of hours were a blur, as other accident victims came and went; the police took our information; paramedics came to check on us.

Meanwhile, my partner was on the phone trying to cancel a flight and car rental, report the collision to insurance, and the other details that come with car accidents.

I made a couple of calls to family, who were expecting my visit later in the day.

Once the scene was cleared, and our car towed away, a couple of strangers from Fenelon Falls stopped in to wait out the next whiteout. They offered to drive us to Fenelon, and our neighbour picked us up from there. When we went to pay our bill at the White Cottage Café in Fenelon, we discovered the good Samaritans had already put anything we wanted on their tab.

As scary as it all was, I am deeply grateful to the staff of that Petro Canada, the first responders: police, fire, and ambulance; our fellow accident victims, as we all checked on each other; the Fenelon Falls couple and our neighbour. I think there were angels looking out for us. After we left the car, we later learned it had been hit several times.

In addition to being grateful, when I tell someone to 'drive safe' now, I am really going to mean it.

NATURE'S CALLING

Grateful

By Toni Cooper

Jan. 1 marks the lake trout opener in many fishing zones – with FMZ 15 being our local one, and this year that date meant more to me than simply the start to another fishing season. It felt like a quiet milestone – one I wasn't sure I was ready to reach, but deeply grateful that I did.

We were lucky enough to spend the first weekend of January tucked into the Haliburton Forest, a place that always seems to slow time just enough to let you breathe again. The snow-laden trees stood still and heavy, their branches sparkling as the light hit them just right. Every trail we sledded down felt like it had been pulled from a postcard, and every stop was an excuse to stand quietly and soak it all in. The sun on your face - even in the heart of winter - felt warm and reassuring, like a reminder that good things still show up when you need them most.

For me, getting back on the ice wasn't a given. Since falling through the ice last March, I've been quietly battling PTSD. It's a strange thing - your body remembers fear long after your mind tries to reason with it.

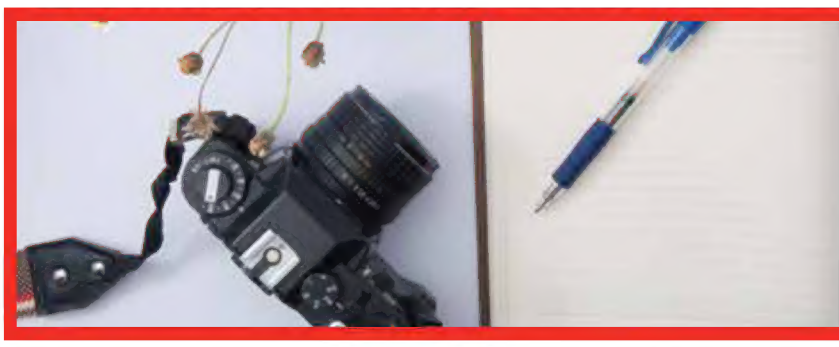
Leading up to this trip, I questioned whether I would even step foot on a frozen lake again. I wanted to. I missed it, but wanting and doing are very different things when fear has taken a hold of you.

So, we started small, a small backwoods lake, tucked away and calm, where we set up not far from shore. My heart raced more than it should have. Was I scared? Absolutely. But I pushed myself and I did it. That alone felt like a victory. Sitting there, listening to the quiet hum of the winter woods, rod in hand, I realized that healing doesn't always come in big, dramatic moments. Sometimes it comes in small, shaky steps forward.

In the afternoon, we moved to a bigger lake, I won't pretend it was easy. I went back to shore a few times just to regroup, to remind myself that I was okay. And each time, I found the courage to go back out. Eventually I steeled in - and then it happened. A few lake trout came topside, solid and beautiful, a reward that felt bigger than the catch itself. It was proof that I was really there, doing the thing that I once loved and thought I might never do again.

More than the fishing, it was the fresh air, the laughter, the stillness and the sense of being present that mattered most, and taking control of my fear again. So, Jan. 1 wasn't just lake trout opening in FMZ 15. For me, it was the opening of a new chapter, one where fear doesn't get the final say, and where even the smallest steps forward are worth celebrating.

Get outdoors, embrace the outdoors, where nature rejuvenates your spirit and nourishes your soul. Whether hiking though lush forests or relaxing by a serene lake, nature offers healing and reflection. Breathe in the fresh air, listen to the soothing sounds of the wildlife, and let the vibrant landscape inspire you. Step outside and allow nature to revitalize your heart and reconnect you with life's simple joys.



SEND IN YOUR PHOTO OF THE WEEK

Send them to editor@thehighlander.ca

Editorial opinion

LETTER

Thank you

Dear editor,

We wish to say thank you to the Minden Hills fire department, paramedics, and the staff and physicians at the Haliburton Hospital for their excellent care provided to my husband, Arvo, during his recent, frequent visits to the hospital.

His care was beyond reproach right from his first visit to the emergency department through to his short time in palliative care. Everyone treated him with respect, humility and tender, loving care. We have only very positive comments for the health care team here in Haliburton.

Special thanks also to PSW Andrew for his compassionate support and care over the past several months.

Barb Kaasalainen and family
Minden Hills

We want to hear from you

Send us your opinion on any and all things related to living in the County

editor@thehighlander.ca

PHOTO OF THE WEEK

Randy Moratz caught this barred owl spending time on his deck recently as it foraged for mice, squirrels and seeds from bird feeders.

HUMANS OF HALIBURTON HIGHLANDS

'How ye daein' Cameron Ferguson?

By Susan Tromanhauser

Standing outside his Haliburton village apartment, a familiar drone lured Cameron Ferguson down to the docks on Drag Lake where the Haliburton Highlanders Bagpipes and Drums band was practicing. Ferguson was excited for the music and the Pipe Band was just as excited to meet Ferguson - a real Scotsman who knew how to play the bagpipes.

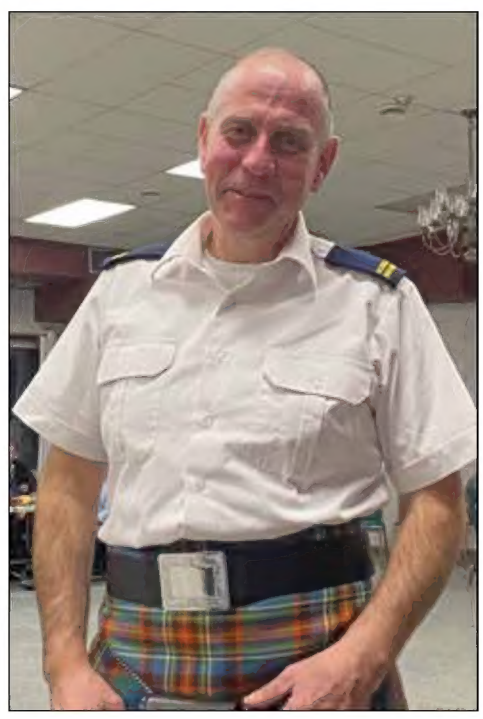
Born in Scotland, Ferguson began learning how to play bagpipes at the age of eight. Not something all young lads want to do, Ferguson was intrigued by the weird looking instrument that made a lot of noise. A difficult instrument to master, Ferguson explains it "takes two years before you can even start to learn." Ferguson's perseverance led to joining the Edinburgh Pipe Band and participating in piping competitions throughout Europe and as far away as Taiwan.

Ferguson left Scotland for university in England for environmental studies and biology. After finding the working world demanded more practical experience, he moved to Holland for horticulture. A job opportunity and a desire for adventure led Ferguson to Ottawa where he became a permanent resident in 2004. After four years, he returned to England to visit family and friends, unsure of his next adventure. He was simultaneously offered a job in the UK and one in Canada. Unsure of what to do, he flipped a coin. Heads won - the decision made - he was heading back to Canada. After accepting the position, he realized he didn't even know where Haliburton was. Together with a mate, they did a Google Earth search and found Haliburton was a "sea of trees." While his buddy was skeptical, since the position was an arborist with the Haliburton Forest, to Ferguson, the location was ideal.

Within a short time "everything fell into place." Within days, Ferguson found an apartment in the village. His upstairs neighbour took motherly interest in him and assured he was shown around and introduced. Ferguson was busier in Haliburton than he ever was in the city, including joining the Haliburton Highlanders Bagpipes and Drums band.

The band practices weekly and volunteers its time in the community, including parades and events such as the Bobcaygeon Canada Day celebration, the Orillia Highland Games and Remembrance Day at the Haliburton Legion. The annual Robbie Burns dinner at the Haliburton Legion is an occasion for the pipe band to give back to the community. It is a non-profit event that sometimes costs the band some money. But it is worth the cost to spread the Scottish culture of Highlands dancing, recitation of Burns poetry, and, of course, the bagpipes. While the entertainment is always enjoyed, the highlight is the eating of the haggis – a Scottish delicacy including lamb's pluck, (heart, lungs and liver), consumed with mixed reviews.

After 18 years of living in the Highlands, Haliburton is home but there are times Ferguson misses Scottish banter, the phrases, the language – the soul of Scotland. So, if you see Ferguson in your travels in the Highlands, ask, "how ye daein?"



Cameron Ferguson at Robbie Burns night in Haliburton. *Submitted.*

Highlander business

New play café taking Minden by storm

By Mike Baker

Minden's newest entrepreneur, Emma Graves, said she felt right at home the first time she walked through the doors of the recently-opened Little Beans Play Café – so much so, she's struck a deal to purchase the business.

Located at 101 Bobcaygeon Rd., in the spot that last housed Beauty Basics, the play café for young families opened in early November. It was the brainchild of Janelle Nesbitt, a nurse at the Haliburton hospital.

About 10 weeks on from launching the business, Nesbitt said she will be taking a backseat after selling to Graves, to focus on her full-time career.

"The café was inspired by my own experience as a parent and nurse – I saw such a need for a welcoming space where parents could slow down, connect and enjoy good coffee while their little ones felt truly included," Nesbitt said.

While there are spaces for adults to mingle, the selling feature of the space is the programming, toys and activities geared towards children. There's also a space in the back for nursing and changing.

In designing the layout, Nesbitt said she wanted to make it, "feel calm, rather than overstimulating. The goal was to make Little Beans Café feel like a second home."

Graves said that was the feeling she got on her first visit with her eight-month-old daughter. She took out a membership right away and began visiting the café daily.

When Nesbitt made it clear she was planning to sell, Graves and a friend were her first call.

Emma Graves has big plans for Little Beans Play Café in Minden. *Photo by Mike Baker.*

"I couldn't be happier about [Emma taking over]. She shares the same heart for the space and community and I know the café will continue to thrive under her care," Nesbitt said.

Working in human resources for most of her adult life, Graves said she took a break in 2024 and went to work at Compass Early Learning. She got pregnant within months – her fourth child, with others aged 18, 16 and 14. She said this gives her a good perspective on the types of programming parents may want to see introduced.

The café is open seven days per week – Monday to Friday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and weekends from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. She sells memberships for unlimited play, which includes specialized programming on Tuesdays (infant circle), Wednesdays (music and movement) and Thursdays (stories and songs).

Graves said there's no limit to the kinds of things she can host – childrens' dance classes launched earlier this month, so too a book club for parents. There's also a board game night on Mondays (5 to 6 p.m.).

There's educational programming too. On Jan. 28, local midwife Annalee Winter gave a talk about navigating the fourth trimester – the three-month period after childbirth. On Feb. 10, certified child sleep consultant Joelle Hill will unpack healthy sleeping habits for infants.

On Feb. 14, there will be a collaboration with the Haliburton County Folk Society, with Anna Morgan performing.

After moving to Haliburton County in 2017, Graves said her goal now is to give back to the community she says has offered so much over the past nine years.

"I want this space to be everything the community needs it to be – I see so much potential here," she said. "The response since this place opened has been huge.

"We're doing as many different things as we can right now to see what's successful and what isn't. We definitely want to be here for the long haul," Graves added.

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MY Haliburton HIGHLANDS
Seniors Active Living Centre

Check out this month's SALC events and activities for residents aged 55+

Board game drop-in – various dates in February

Feb. 2, 9 and 23
Qi Gong for Seniors

Feb. 3, 10, 17, 24
Seniors Stretch Class

Feb. 3, 10, 17, 24
Exercise classes with Georgia

Feb. 3
Seniors Cooking Workshop

Feb. 5, 13, 18, 25
Genealogy for Seniors

Feb. 5, 19
Painting Class

Feb. 5, 19
Functional Senior Fitness

Feb. 6, 13, 20, 27
Seniors Balance and Cardio Fitness Classes

Feb. 6, 11, 12, 19, 20
Needle Felting

Feb. 7
Coffee House

Feb. 10
Medication Safety information lunch

Feb. 11, 25
Senior Chair Fitness

Feb. 12
Stress Management Webinar

February 18
Crafternoon

Feb. 24
Tax Benefits and Credits for Persons with Disabilities Webinar

Feb. 12, 26
Fire Safety & Basic First Aid and CPR

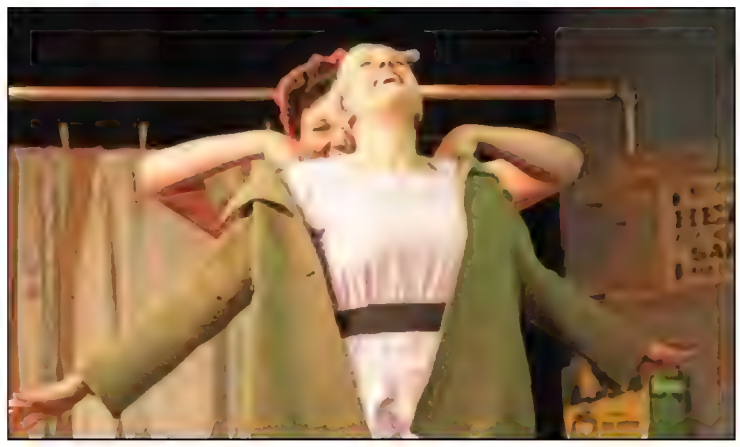
Feb. 26
Chair Yoga

Ontario

Funding for this program has been provided by the Ministry for Seniors and Accessibility

For full details, visit HaliburtonCounty.ca/SALC or pick up a calendar at a municipal office, library or Legion near you!

Highlander arts



Love was in the air

Razzamataz Kids' Shows made its return to Haliburton Jan. 25, welcoming the British Columbia-based Axis Theatre for its production *Somebody Loves You, Mr. Hatch.* Held at the Northern Lights Performing Arts Pavilion, the story followed washerwomen Betsy (Sarah May Redmond), Edna (Tara Travis) and Molly (Christine Reinfort) as they brought the puppet Mr. Hatch's story to life, helping him search for his secret admirer. Approximately 130 people attended, with the post-show theatre and improv workshop attracting 20 kids. Next up on the Razzamataz schedule is *The Old Man and the River*, presented by Toronto's WeeFestival March 8. Tickets are available online. *(Mike Baker)*

Left: Edna (portrayed by Tara Travis) and Molly (Christine Reinfort) having fun on stage. Top right: Betsy (Sarah May Redmond) helps Molly (Reinfort) into her coat. Bottom right: Betsy (Redmond) and Edna (Travis) help Mr. Hatch with his guitar. *Photos by Michah Wilson.*

Highlander sports

Start your engines

The Minden Fairgrounds was humming Jan. 24-25 as the Toronto Autosport Club kickstarted its 2026 ice racing season. With 85 participants registering across 12 categories, TAC ice racing director Elaine Willis said it was a hugely successful start to the six-week season. Now celebrating 50 years in Minden, ice racing will run at the fairgrounds until the March 6-7 weekend, weather permitting. *(Mike Baker)*

Top: No. 68 Oleh Koursa sends snow flying as he gets close to the track boundary. Bottom left: No. 136 Carl Mayette throws a 'rock on' to the camera while navigating a turn in his Subaru. Bottom middle: No. 91 Brad Redford pulls away from the chasing pack, closely followed by No. 124 James Craig and No. 133 Dave Sullivan. Bottom right: No. 188 Billy Last leaves a trail of snow in his wake as he speeds down the track. *Photos by Michah Wilson.*

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY DIAL 911 • AFTER-HOURS MUNICIPAL EMERGENCY DIAL 1-866-856-3247 • WWW.MINDENHILLS.CA

NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING – COUNCIL OVERRIDE FOR 2026 MAYORAL BUDGET

Take Notice that there will be a Special meeting of Council held on Thursday, January 29th, 2026, at 9:00 AM. The meeting will take place in Council Chambers located at 7 Milne St., Minden, ON.

The purpose of this Special Meeting is for Council to consider proposed override(s) of Mayoral Veto Decisions posted January 16, 2026.

Council is proposing overrides to the 8 Veto Decisions.

Mayoral Decision are available on the Township Website/Strong Mayor Powers Page.

Members of the public may access the agenda on Monday, January 26, 2026.

Dated this 23rd day of January 2026.

For questions, please contact:

Vicki Bull, Clerk

Township of Minden Hills

705-286-1260 ext. 515

ENHANCED BLUE BOX PROGRAM

Starting January 1, 2026, Minden Hills, along with all Ontario municipalities, transitioned to an enhanced Blue Box Program. You can now recycle more than ever before! Circular Materials Ontario is now responsible for the Blue Box Program province wide. Learn more by visiting circularmaterials.ca/ON/minden-hills.

SAFE WINTER DRIVING

Leave extra space when driving in icing conditions. Approach intersections slowly when they are covered with ice or snow. Watch out for black ice, a thin, nearly invisible coat of ice that can make the road look like shiny new asphalt. Pavement will look grey or white in the winter.

COUNCIL MEETINGS VIRTUAL & IN-PERSON

Council and Closed Session meetings are currently being conducted in-person (Council Chambers, 7 Milne St., Minden) and with electronic participation. The scheduled upcoming meetings are:

- February 12 – Regular Council Meeting
- February 26 – Regular Council Meeting

Members of the Public are invited to observe Council proceedings by attending in-person or via the live-stream link.

REGISTER TO VOTE

The next municipal election will be held Monday, October 26, 2026.

To register and/or confirm your information, visit the Elections Ontario Register to Vote portal at RegisterToVoteON.ca

MINDEN HILLS CULTURAL CENTRE

- A selection of artwork from the Agnes Jamieson Gallery's permanent collection, as well as new acquisitions, is now on display. The Gallery is open Tuesday to Saturday from 10 am – 4 pm. All are welcome. Admission is by donation.
- On Friday, January 30, the Minden Hills Cultural Centre invites families to join in our PA Day activities. Seasonal crafts, exhibits, and interactive experiences will be offered at Nature's Place from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM, with admission by donation. In the afternoon, enjoy a free movie screening of Iron Will (1994) in the Welch Room from 1:00 to 2:30 PM.

For information on all the programs and exhibits offered at the Minden Hills Cultural Centre: culturalcentre@mindenhills.ca or call 705-286-3763.

7 Milne Street, PO Box 359, Minden, ON, K0M 2K0 | Phone: 705-286-1260 · Toll Free 1-844-277-1260 · Fax: 705-286-4917

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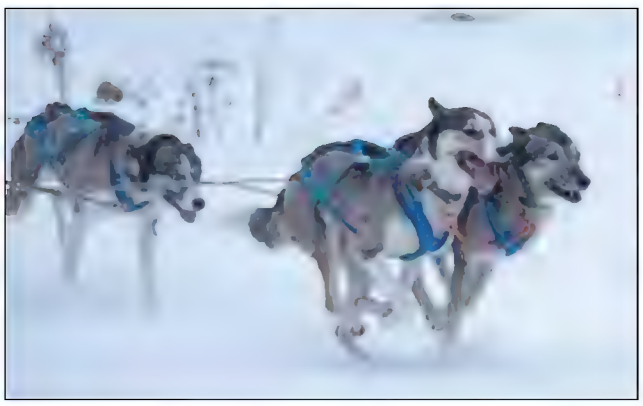
Highlander outdoors



Dog days of winter

Pinestone Resort in Haliburton went to the dogs this past weekend as Winterdance Dogsled Tours welcomed mushers from across Ontario for the 19th annual Haliburton Highlands Dog Sled Derby. People came from all over to participate, with events including the popular four-dog, six-dog, eight-dog and skijoring races for the pros, as well as the kid and mutt, two-dog and youth races. Organizer Tanya McCready said it was a memorable two days of racing. "Mushers who made it were thrilled to be back and before final teams had even finished, conversations had begun about next year – which will mark the derby's 20th anniversary." *(Mike Baker)*

Top: Michael Bunker controls his trusty steeds in the six-dog race. Bottom left: Melissa Linton takes off in the six-dog race. Bottom right: Pups tearing up the trail. *Photos by Michah Wilson.*

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Highlander outdoors

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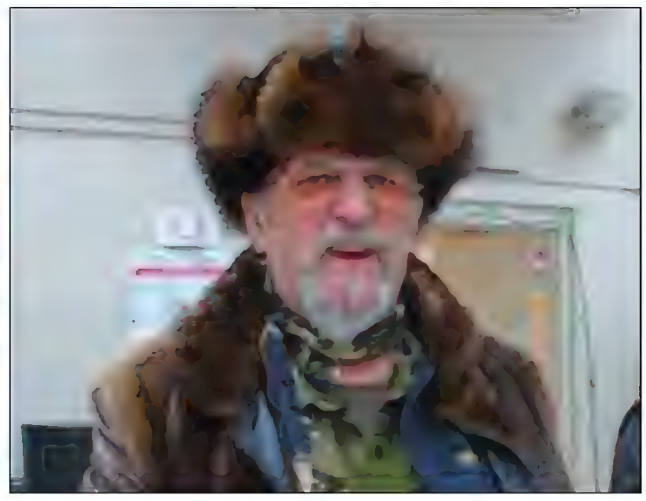
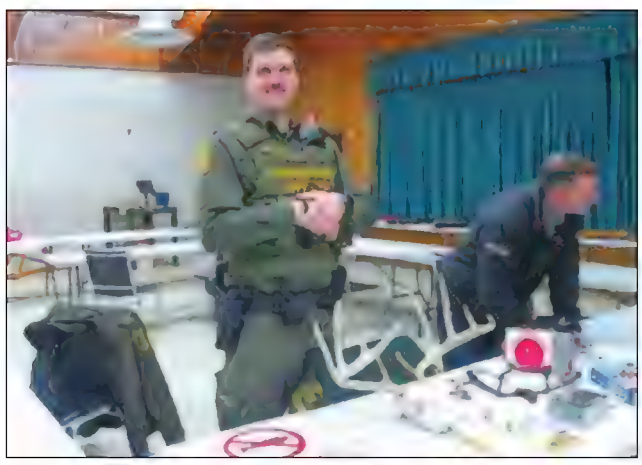




Big return for trappers workshop

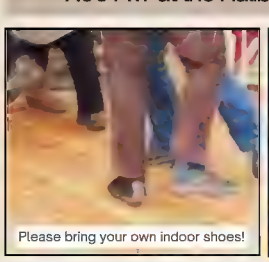
The Minden District Fur Harvesters brought its annual trappers workshop back to Wilberforce Jan. 24. Taking place at the Lloyd Watson Memorial Centre, the event attracted dozens of hunting enthusiasts with displays by local harvesters, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry and Milcun Firearms Training Centre. There were presentations from Krystle Pegg about the mandate of Citizens for Crown Land Protection and Carly Kenny on fur fashion and accessories, the Canadian Heroes Foundation, Cutter's Edge Woodworking and more. Pelts from fur handling contests were also on display, while attendees had fun guessing the weight of a beaver carcass, which came in at 42.25 pounds – Deb Bowers won a prize for the closest guess. Lunch was available courtesy of the Wilberforce Legion ladies' auxiliary. Linda Nottage, one of the organizers, said it was a great return for the event, which didn't run in 2025. The fur harvesters collected over 40 pounds of food at the event, which was donated to Central Food Network. *(Mike Baker)*

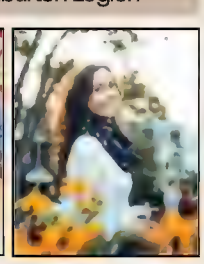
Top left: Tracey Nottage shows off one of many displays put together by the Minden District Fur Harvesters. Top right: John Fitchett, past president of the Ontario Fur Managers' Federation, put on his best furs for Saturday's event. Bottom left: Jasper van Balen Walter, an MNRF conservation officer, provided information on the hunting regulations in Ontario. Bottom right: Carly Kenny offered fashion tips using furs and discussed her custom sewing techniques.
Photos by Barb Schofield.

OLD TIME WINTER SQUARE DANCE

Presented by: Dance Happens Here Haliburton (DH3) with Hike Haliburton – Winter Edition & February Folk Festival

Saturday, Feb 7, 2026
7:00 PM at the Haliburton Legion





Please bring your own indoor shoes!

All ages and abilities are welcome—no experience required. Featuring square dance caller Hannah Shira Naiman, with live bluegrass music by Nathan Smith, Kyle Kirkpatrick, and Tim O'Reilly, plus a special performance by the Haliburton Scottish Country Dancers.

Tickets: $20 for adults; $10 for college students; free for children and high school students. Available at dancehappenshere.com and Redmans Records.

Scan for tickets!

DH3 Canada

Dance Happens Here Haliburton (DH3) is a proud part of the Haliburton County Community Co-operative.

Do you have newspapers from before 1980?

The Haliburton Highlands Digital Archive is seeking copies of old Haliburton County newspapers to complete their digital collection.

If you have local newspapers from before 1980 please visit www.hhda.ca for information on how to submit your papers to be included in the digital archive.

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  5-7 p.m.
- **Friday, February 6**
  Hook, Line & Sinker
  6-9 p.m.
- **Saturday, February 7**
  Sir Sam's Inn & Spa
  8-10 p.m.
- **Saturday March 7**
  Sir Sams Ski Hill
  3:30-5:30 p.m.
- **Saturday March 7**
  Sir Sam's Inn & Spa
  8-10 p.m.

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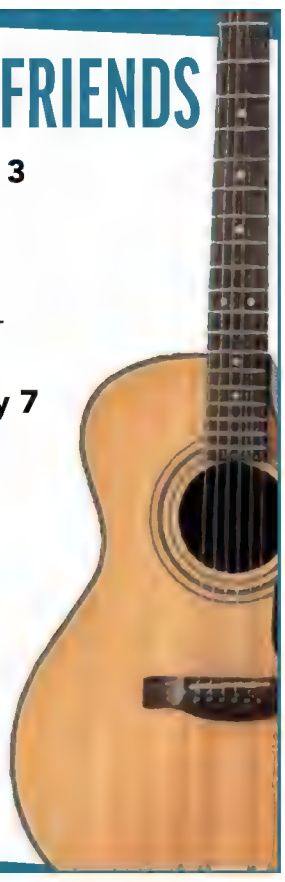


County centenarian living her best life

By Mike Baker

Despite her humble claims, Stanhope's Ruth MacBrien has lived anything but an ordinary life.

Celebrating her 100th birthday Jan. 31, the soon-to-be centurion sat down with *The Highlander* to unpack a life that started in Winnipeg, Manitoba in 1926 and saw her manoeuvre cities like Niagara Falls and Toronto before settling in paradise - otherwise known as Haliburton County – in 1950.

It was love that brought her north – she met her husband, Bob MacBrien, in the mid-1940s. Ruth was friends with his sister, with the pair attending the same church in Toronto together. Growing up in Stanhope, Bob went to a technical school in the city because there was no high school in the County. It was there he met Ruth.

Most will know the MacBriens for their 33 years of running Bob's Radio and Television - later Bob's Television and Hardware – in Minden. Bob constructed the building at 92 Bobcaygeon Rd. himself. Today, it's home to Riverview Furniture.

The couple made their home off Hwy. 35 in Stanhope township. They had five children – Paul, Catherine, James, John and Lois. They were married for more than 66 years, with Bob passing in 2016 aged 90.

"Originally, I came here as a bride and my husband was going to work with his parents at the resort they owned, but there wasn't enough business at the time. Bob went back to Toronto for Bible college and did some missionary work… then we started Bob's Radio and TV in 1955," Ruth said.

She served as the business' bookkeeper – a role she also fulfilled, for a short time, at Carnarvon Lumber.

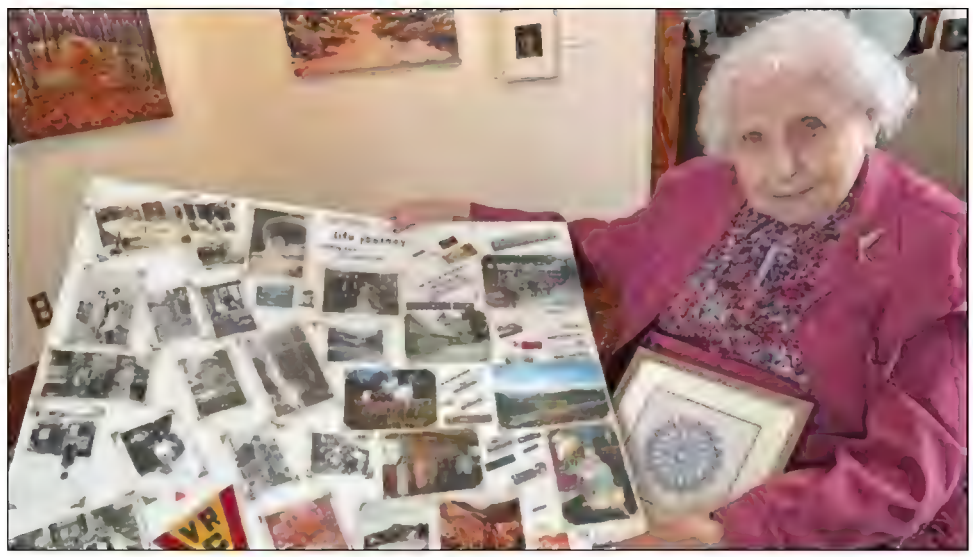
Ruth's ties to the community run deep – she is a founding member of Minden Bible Church, which is hosting Saturday's centennial celebration; helped launch the Kinmount Marketplace, where she's known for her tatting exploits; has been a helper with the Kinmount Fair almost 30 years; was a longtime member of the Minden and District Horticultural Society; and remains an active member of the Haliburton Highlands Quilt Guild.

Her exploits are many – she accompanied Bob on a mission trip to Haiti in the 1970s and claims to be the second white woman ever to climb Mount Bois-Pin, the fourth highest mountain on the Caribbean island at 7,333 feet above sea level.

"I was in my 50s at the time and they looked at me with my grey hair and said, 'I don't think you can climb that', but I did it," Ruth said. While there, she picked stones for cement while her husband helped build a water well for a rural community.

The experience in Haiti changed her outlook on life – despite the people there having so little, Ruth said they seemed so happy.

"They had nothing materialistically, but they experienced joy that was expressed daily through smiles, laughter and teamwork to accomplish their goals," she said. "Here in North America, we have so much material wealth, but our society as a whole is so unhappy. What a contrast between cultures and outlook on life."



Ruth MacBrien is celebrating her 100th birthday. *Photo by Mike Baker.*

Ruth complete her high school education in 2003, aged 77. That year, she was named the Haliburton Adult and Alternate Education Centre's citizen of the year.

While she's made many memories in the years since, a standout was completing the Stanhope Triathlon in 2003, aged 77.

Asked about other highlights of her life, Ruth brings up a letter she received from Queen Elizabeth II in 2021.

"I sent her a picture of my dad, who had an incredible likeness to King George VI - her father and the monarch at the time," Ruth said. "I told her about the time he went out to Montreal for work. The people out there thought my dad was the king incognito. He said people were saluting him and he had no idea what for. It was nice that she wrote back."

As the fourth member of her family to reach 100, Ruth said the secret to living a long, happy and healthy life, "is loving God and then eating properly and behaving myself – no alcohol, no cigarettes, nothing like that."

Saturday's celebration runs 1 to 4 p.m., with a cake cutting at 2 p.m. All are welcome to join the festivities.

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Josh Denes wins a faceoff in the team's 4-2 loss to the Trenton Golden Hawks Jan. 24. *Photo by Michah Wilson.*

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Game 'a real stinker'

By Mike Baker

After a disappointing performance on home ice Jan. 24, losing 4-2 to the visiting Trenton Golden Hawks, Haliburton County Huskies head coach Jordan Bailey has challenged his team to get back on track and close out this topsy-turvy Ontario Junior Hockey League (OJHL) season with a bang.

The blue and white went into Saturday's match-up with table-topping Trenton high in confidence, having won 14 of its previous 16 games – including a 4-2 win on the road against the Golden Hawks Jan. 16.

Bailey felt the weekend's highly anticipated duel in Minden was the Huskies worst performance in weeks.

"I think we knew they were going to come out hard, but we just didn't match them. It was one of those things we haven't had in a while – a real stinker, let's call it," Bailey said. "We didn't do a whole lot right. Our powerplay has been really good the past couple months, but it wasn't [clicking].

"The only thing that really was on point was our penalty kill, which did a good job, and our goaltender Owen Edwards. He was the reason we were able to hang in the game as much as we did," he added.

While the shot counter had the two teams tied after one, at 15 apiece, Bailey felt Trenton created more dangerous opportunities. After some fine work from Edwards to keep the scores level, Joey Brehmer broke the deadlock for Trenton at 13:41.

Liam Oravsky restored parity early in the second, slotting the puck home at 5:02 for his 16th marker of the season assisted by Isaac Larmand and Kieran Raynor.

Just as it seemed the home side was settling into their game, Trenton hit back with a quickfire double – scoring at 8:36 and 11:41 to put the Huskies in a hole. Bailey feared a runaway score at that point, but Edwards made several key stops to keep Trenton at bay.

The Golden Hawks dominated much of the third, but the Huskies had a chance to put the pressure on five minutes from the end – Chase Del Colombo was awarded a penalty shot after being brought down on a breakaway, though he couldn't find a way past Colten Drillen-Roach.

The Huskies didn't give up and were rewarded with their second goal at 18:46 – Oravsky firing into a gaping goal after Drillen-Roach, with the Huskies net empty, gathered the puck behind his net and tried for a goalie goal, but didn't get enough air on his shot. Trenton added a late empty-netter with two seconds remaining to add gloss to the scoreline.

"We made it close at the end, but I told the guys that we're not going to beat teams of Trenton's calibre playing the way we did. You can't have lulls like that because the top teams will hurt you," Bailey said.

Huskies 4 Aurora 2

It was a much better performance – and result – for the Huskies Jan. 23 in Aurora, where they tamed the Tigers 4-2. Del Colombo tallied twice for his 12th and 13th goals of the season, with defenceman Luis Sturgeon and top scorer Larmand also finding the back of the net.

Bailey credited young goaltender Carter Nadon, who made 19 saves en route to his third straight win of 2026.

"I think we have a great situation that most teams don't have. We have a 1A goaltender in Owen and a 1B in Carter – they're both very good goalies and I know we can rely on them," Bailey said. "I would say it's a good problem to have… at this point, I would say they're one of the best tandems in the league."

Bailey was happy to see some of the team's depth pieces contributing to the scoresheet - a theme of the season thus far. "Anytime we're getting that, we're having a lot of success," Bailey said.

With 12 games in 29 days to end the regular season, Bailey said it's an opportunity for his side to build momentum heading into playoffs. They're currently sitting fifth in the East Division, tied on points with the Newmarket Hurricanes and Pickering Panthers and within reach of the Stouffville Spirit and Trenton at the top of the standings.

"We play a lot of playoff teams over the next month, so there's still a lot of meaningful hockey to play. It'll be a great test for our guys… because every game matters," Bailey said. "We've got Newmarket twice, Pickering once, Stouffville twice. So it's one of those things where we can control our own fate if we're winning those hockey games."

The team has a home double header this weekend, hosting the Markham Royals Jan. 31 (4 p.m.) and Newmarket Feb. 1 (2:30 p.m.).

Home of the Highland Storm

Brooks Emmerson with his stick up in the air as he chases the puck. *Photo by Steven Sherwood.*

STARS of the WEEK

CASH OUELLETTE

Showed amazing effort from start to finish, skating hard every shift and never giving up on the puck. He scored two goals.

BROOKS EMMERSON

Brought energy and excitement to the game, battling for the puck, and supporting teammates. Scored a hattrick..

GRAYSON MEHARRIE

Was calm and confident in the net, making big saves and staying focused the entire game. Kept us in the game.

Photos by Tim Tofflemire

Storm battle back to tie

The U9 Cottage Country Building Supplies team faced off against the Millbrook Stars Green in a fast-paced and competitive matchup Jan. 24.

Millbrook came out strong in the first period, building an early lead and heading into the break up two goals.

The Highland Storm responded with determination in the second period, matching Millbrook's intensity. Both teams traded chances, with the Storm scoring two goals while Millbrook also found the net twice, keeping the game tight and full of energy.

In the third period, the Storm Blue showed great resilience and teamwork, pushing hard until the final buzzer. Their effort paid off as they battled back to tie the game, ending regulation in an exciting 5–5 draw.

It was a hard-fought game on both sides, with the Storm showing strong character, persistence, and a never-quit attitude right to the end. *(Submitted)*

SCORE BOARD

Jan. 19
U11 Rep Tom Prentice & Sons vs Sturgeon 6-4 L
Jan. 20
U13 Rep Curry Chevrolet vs Ennismore 5-3 W
U15 Rep Cheryl Smith Re/Max vs Millbrook 3-0 W
U18 Rep Haliburton Timber Mart vs Lindsay 6-4 L
Jan. 24
U9 Cottage Country Building Supplies vs Millbrook 5-5 T
U11 Minden Carquest vs Lindsay 9-1 W
U15 The Pepper Mill Steak and Pasta House vs Durham 8-7 L
U18 Rep Haliburton Timber Mart vs Brock 6-4 L
U15 Rep Cheryl Smith Re/Max vs Durham 3-1 W
U18 A&W vs Durham 6-0 L
Jan. 25
U11 Minden Carquest vs Brock 4-0 W
U11 Rep Tom Prentice & Sons vs Ennismore 3-3 T

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Mondays: Office open 9 a.m. to noon, clubroom closed. Bridge at 1 p.m., youth dart league (ages 10-18) 6:20 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
Tuesdays: Cadets after school starts at 5 p.m., meeting starts at 6 p.m. Games and cards night starting at 6:30 p.m. All are welcome. Darts league 7 p.m. start.
Wednesdays: Bid euchre 1 p.m. start, Remembrance Hall. Bingo will resume in the spring.
Thursdays: General meeting third Thursday of the month, March to December; ladies auxiliary meeting last Thursday of the month, February to November.
Fridays: Meat draw, five draws, five prize each draw, first draw at 4:30 p.m., last draw at 6:30 p.m., tickets are $2 per draw; fun darts at 4:30 p.m. onwards; 50/50 draw at 5 p.m., tickets are $1 and available in the clubroom.
Saturdays: Open only for special events Office hours: Monday 3 to 6 p.m., Tuesday 5 to 9 p.m., Wednesday/Thursday 3 to 6 p.m., Friday 3 to 7 p.m., Saturday/Sunday closed Clubroom hours: Monday 3-6 p.m., Tues 5-9 p.m., Wed/Thurs 3-6 p.m., Fri 3-7 p.m., Saturday/Sunday closed.

Royal Canadian Legion - Mabel D. Brannigan Branch 636 Minden

Lunch 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. **Monday to Thursday** with regular menu and daily special including Liver Lovers' **Tuesday**.
Friday Fish & Chips & Wings. Lunch 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and dinner 4-7 p.m.
Saturday all day breakfast 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. with meat draws at 11 a.m.
Call ahead any day for take-out: 705-286-4541
Weekly activities:
Karaoke: call for dates
Monday: Rug Hookers every second week.
Monday: Euchre 1-3 p.m.
Thursday: Cribbage 1-3 p.m., Darts 7-9 p.m. and euchre 7-9 p.m.

Royal Canadian Legion - Branch 624 Wilberforce

Monday: open 7 to 10 p.m. There's darts Feb. 2, 9, 16 and 23 at 7 p.m. Cost is $5 per player.
Tuesday: closed, special events only. Feb. 3, 10, 17 and 24 is seniors exercise club at 1:30 p.m.
Wednesday: open 2 to 10 p.m. Feb. 4, 11, 18 and 25 is darts at 2 p.m. $5/player. There's also quick supper from 5 to 6:30 p.m., with the menu changing weekly. Cost is $10 per person. And open cribbage starts at 6:30 p.m., no need to pre-register.
Thursday: open 2 to 10 p.m. HHHS social rec Feb. 12 and 26 at 10 a.m.
Friday: open 2 to 11 p.m. Jan. 30 and Feb. 6 and 20 is fish and chips from 5 to 8 p.m. One piece is $15, two pieces is $20. Feb. 13 and 27 is wings and jam session from 5 to 8 p.m. Cost is $15 per pound. Feb. 13 and 27 is community care 55+ lunch at noon, cost is $17 per person.
Saturday: open 2 to 9 p.m. Meat draw Jan. 31 and Feb. 7, 14, 21 and 28 at 3 p.m. Jan. 31 is trivia night at 7 p.m., cost is $5 per player. Feb. 14 is the Ken McFarlane Memorial Family Day lake trout ice fishing derby, weigh in at 3 p.m. Register by Feb. 13. Valentine's Day dance Feb. 14 from 8 p.m. to 1 a.m. Trivia Feb. 28 at 7 p.m., $5 per player.
Sunday: closed, special events only.

EVENTS

Jan. 31, 9 a.m. It's opening day for the Minden Ice Races. Swing by the Minden Fairgrounds to watch drivers as they manoeuvre the slick track. Spectator admission is free. Races are also running all day Sunday, with an 11 a.m. start time.

Feb. 1, 6-9 p.m. Medeba is hosting an indoor community climbing experience at its location at 1270 Kennisis Lake Rd. There are a range of routes for all levels of climbers. Cost is $15 per person, with shoe rentals available for $5. No registration necessary, just drop in. Also running Feb. 8.

Feb. 5, 1 p.m. The Minden Hills Cultural Centre is hosting a documentary screening of *Speakers for the Dead*, uncovering the largely forgotten chapter of Black history in rural Ontario. All ages are welcome. Admission is free.

Feb. 6, 1:30 to 5 p.m. The Minden Hills and Dysart branches of the Haliburton County Public Library are hosting watch parties for the Olympic Winter Games opening ceremony. Cheer on Team Canada, enjoy incredible performances and kick-off the Olympics with community spirit. Free, all ages welcome, no registration required.

Feb. 7, 10:45 a.m. to 2 p.m. Join the Minden and District Horticultural Society at the Minden Community Centre for its monthly meeting. Guest speakers Connie Walker and Carolyn Perks will host a horticultural trivia contest. This is a free event, but please bring a dish to share and your own tableware, cup and cutlery.

Feb. 7, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Valentine's Market at the Minden Lions Club (166 Bobcaygeon Rd.). The event will feature more than 10 local artists and vendors, with complimentary rainbow heart scratch cards available to attendees while supplies last.

Feb. 7, 1 to 3 p.m. Celebrate Black History Month with a free community film screening of *Akeelah and the Bee* at the Minden Hills and Dysart libraries. The drama follows an 11-year-old girl who discovers a remarkable talent for spelling and sets her sights on the national spelling bee.

Feb. 7, 7 to 10 p.m. Dance Happens Here Haliburton presents an Old Time Winter Square Dance at the Haliburton Legion. In partnership with Hike Haliburton, Winter Edition the event will feature square dance caller Hannah Shira Naiman, live bluegrass musicians from the Barrel Boys and a performance by the Haliburton Scottish Country Dancers. We welcome people of all ages and abilities.

Feb. 7 and 8, Hike Haliburton Winter Edition. Take part in Canada's largest guided hiking festival. Registration is now open – visit hikehaliburton.com for more information.

Feb. 8, 7 p.m. Join seasoned songwriters Lizzy Clarke and Tom Oliver for a creative night that's part open mic, part jam session. Share your original songs, get honest and supportive feedback and swap ideas with fellow writers in a laid-back atmosphere. Event held at Haliburton United Church every second Sunday of the month. Pay what you can, with a $5 suggested donation.

Have a non-profit event you want advertised? email **mike@thehighlander.ca**.

Union Duke will rock the Haliburton Legion Jan. 31. *Submitted.*

Union Duke ready for connections

By Lisa Gervais

Matt Warry-Smith, front man for Union Duke, admits he isn't sure if the band has ever played in Haliburton County before.

"I don't know. I feel like we have. I think I would be surprised if we hadn't, but then again, you know, life is long. I've played a lot of shows. It's hard to remember everywhere I've been. Please forgive me," he says with a chuckle.

However, the singer-songwriter and instrumentalist has visited Haliburton personally in the past, saying he's "had wonderful times, it's a beautiful little town full of lovely people, and I can't wait to come and play."

The Haliburton County Folk Society is bringing Union Duke to the Haliburton Legion Jan. 31.

The band's fourth full-length studio album was released Jan. 17. Warry-Smith said "it is exciting. It's been a long time coming. We started working on this record a few years ago."

Warry-Smith said Union Duke had changed over the years, with some members moving away and having kids.

UD IV is their first major album release in a decade. It marks a transition with the departure of original bass player, Will Staunton, halfway through the recording. The album was completed by the four remaining members, Warry-Smith, Ethan Smith, Jim McDonald, and Rob McLaren, with the addition of Ian McKeown on bass. Canadian legend Aaron Goldstein played pedal steel, and Joel Visentin is featured on organ and accordion. The album is also the first to feature leads from four different members of the band. Warry-Smith said he describes them as "a painfully democratic band. It all comes through the general assembly.

"I think 2025 was a bit of a transitionary period for us as we figure out what we're doing moving forward. But now that this new record is out, we have a lot of shows coming up. We're doing some touring; we're going to Europe in the fall. So, I'm really excited to see what's going to happen with the record over the next year," Warry-Smith said.

He added they are getting good feedback on the album so far, but he is looking forward to touring it. "Really feeling it being out in the world and connecting with people over it."

As a young band, he joked they wrote songs about girls, drinking and cars. "And now that we're old, crusty, men in our mid-30s, we're writing quite a bit more about what it means to be an artist, a friend, a father. We're just people trying to figure out how to be happy. Is that so different than anyone else?"

He goes on to say, "don't get me wrong; there are songs about drinking, girls and cars on this record also. We're still the same old Duke; we're just a little bit wiser. We are going to liven things up a bit. We might be a little bit longer in the tooth, but we still know how to party, don't worry about that."

In a world of computers and streaming, Warry-Smith said, "I like a more human connection. Come to the show, be a human being, shake a hand, share a consensual kiss. I am really looking forward to being on the road."

Concert coordinator, Walt Tose said, the folk society has a reputation for bringing great music to our community. "Even if you haven't heard of the band, you won't be disappointed. Union Duke offers a blend of country, rock, bluegrass and folk that will get you toe-tapping, hand clapping and on your feet."

Doors open at 7 p.m. for a 7:30 p.m. show.

The concert will kickstart a month-long February Folk Festival being planned by the Folk Society in partnership with the County of Haliburton and other presenters.

Tickets for the concert and additional information are available at the Haliburton County Folk Society website – www.haliburtonfolk.com .

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FOR SALE – 2018 Side by Side, with chains, plows & cover for machine. 14,000 kms. $14,000. or B/O also a 2023 E-Bike for $2,000. of B/O. Call for more information 705-306-4986

WANTED

J & D TOWING & SERVICE STATION - will pay top dollar for scrap cars. We also provide towing services as well as flat bed. Call Jim 705-447-2113

HELP WANTED

The Municipality of Highlands East
Is Currently Seeking A

Temporary, General Equipment Operator
(Temporary to Cover Medical Leave)
Public Works Department

Current Rate of Pay per CUPE Local 4416 Collective Agreement: $30.05/ hour

40 Hours per week, Monday – Friday

Overtime required some evenings and weekends subject to weather events. Position to commence as soon as possible and duration to be determined.

A copy of the detailed job posting, and description are available upon request or on the Highlands East website at www.highlandseast.ca

If you are interested in joining our dedicated team of municipal professionals, applications **clearly marked "Application – Temporary, General Equipment Operator"** may be submitted on or before 12:00 p.m, Tuesday, February 17th, 2025 via email, mail, in person, or fax. Interested applicants may submit their resume, including references, in confidence to:

Tracy Vader, HR/Payroll Coordinator
Municipality of Highlands East
P.O. Box 295, 2249 Loop Road
Wilberforce, ON K0L 3C0
E-Mail: humanresources@highlandseast.ca

We thank all applicants for their interest but only those selected for an interview will be contacted.

The Municipality of Highlands East is an equal opportunity employer. Applicants requiring accommodation are asked to contact the HR/Payroll Coordinator.

In accordance with the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, the information gathered will be used solely for candidate selection purposes only. Questions about this collection should be directed to Tracy Vader, HR/Payroll Coordinator.

Part-Time, Short-Term Rental (STR) Licensing Officer/Enforcement Officer Building/Bylaw Department (Maternity Coverage)

Due to an upcoming maternity leave, the Municipality of Highlands East is seeking an energetic individual to join our dedicated team of municipal professionals in the role of Short-Term Rental Licensing and Enforcement Officer.

This will be a contract position for a period of 12 - 18 months. The current rate of pay per CUPE Local 4416 Collective Agreement is $31.19, working up to 30 hours/week, varied days of the week. Weekend work may be required.

A copy of the detailed job posting, and description are available upon request or on the Highlands East website at www.highlandseast.ca

Applications **clearly marked "Application – Short-Term Rental (STR) Licensing Officer/Enforcement Officer"** may be submitted on or before 12:00 p.m., Friday, January 30th, 2026, via email, mail or in person. Interested applicants may submit their resume, including references, in confidence to:

Tracy Vader, HR/Payroll Coordinator
Municipality of Highlands East
P.O. Box 295, 2249 Loop Road
Wilberforce, ON K0L 3C0
E-Mail: tvader@highlandseast.ca

We thank all applicants for their interest but only those selected for an interview will be contacted.

The Municipality of Highlands East is an equal opportunity employer. Applicants requiring accommodation are asked to contact the HR/Payroll Coordinator.

In accordance with the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, the information gathered will be used solely for candidate selection purposes only. Questions about this collection should be directed to Tracy Vader, HR/Payroll Coordinator.

Township of Algonquin Highlands

We are currently accepting resumes for the following position:

Sewage System Program Inspector/ Administrator

Visit our website at: www.algonquinhighlands.ca for the complete job description.

Qualified candidates are invited to submit a cover letter and resume by 3:00 p.m. on Friday, February 6, 2026 to:

Dawn Mugford-Guay
Human Resources Coordinator
Township of Algonquin Highlands
1123 North Shore Road
Algonquin Highlands, ON K0M 1S0
Email: dmugfordguay@algonquinhighlands.ca

Township of Algonquin Highlands
Parks, Recreation and Trails Department

We are currently accepting resumes for the following positions:

Dorset Tower Attendant
Lead Swim Instructor
Assistant Swim Instructor
Seasonal Student Trail Technician
Seasonal Trails Office Attendant
Stewardship Youth Ranger Team Lead
Stewardship Youth Rangers

Visit our website at: www.algonquinhighlands.ca for the complete job description.

Qualified candidates are invited to submit a cover letter and resume by **3:00 p.m. on Friday, February 13, 2026** to:

Dawn Mugford-Guay
Human Resources Coordinator
Township of Algonquin Highlands
1123 North Shore Road
Algonquin Highlands, ON K0M 1S0
Email: dmugfordguay@algonquinhighlands.ca

Haliburton County Public Library Requires a

Part-time Courier

This position is responsible for the safe and timely delivery of library materials. The successful applicant will possess secondary education, a valid G licence, as well as the ability to lift and move objects weighing up to 50 lbs.

The hourly range for this permanent position is $18.48 - $21.62.

Visit our website at www.haliburtoncounty.ca/careers for a detailed posting and job description.

Please forward your resume to info@haliburtonlibrary.ca no later than **Thursday, January 29, 2026, at 4:30pm**.

We thank all who apply for this position; however only those selected for an interview will be contacted.

The County of Haliburton is an equal employer. Accommodation can be provided in all steps of the hiring process, please contact Human Resources for further details.

In accordance with the *Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act,* the information gathered will be used solely for the purpose of job selection.

Highlander classifieds

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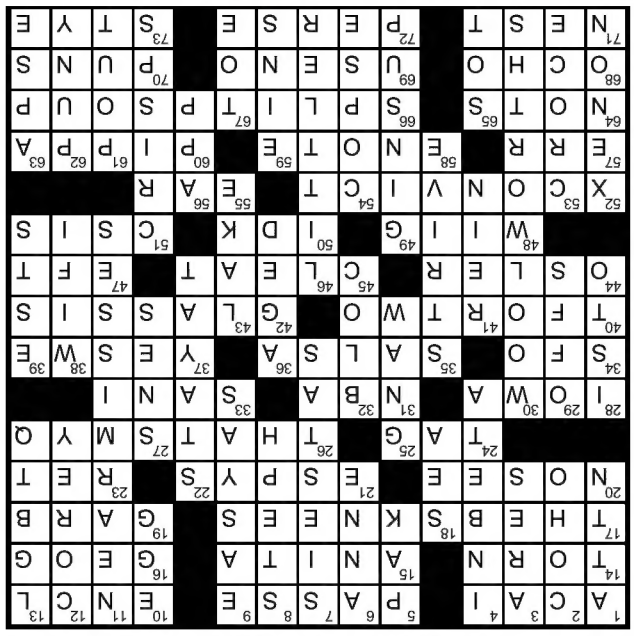
LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS



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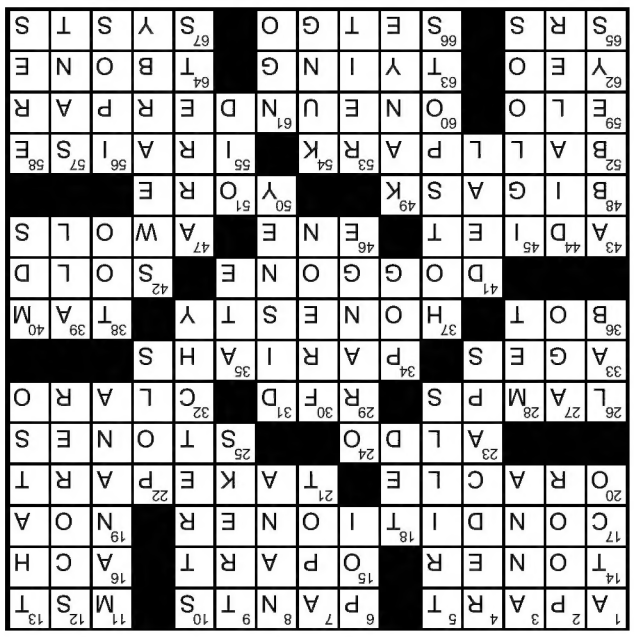

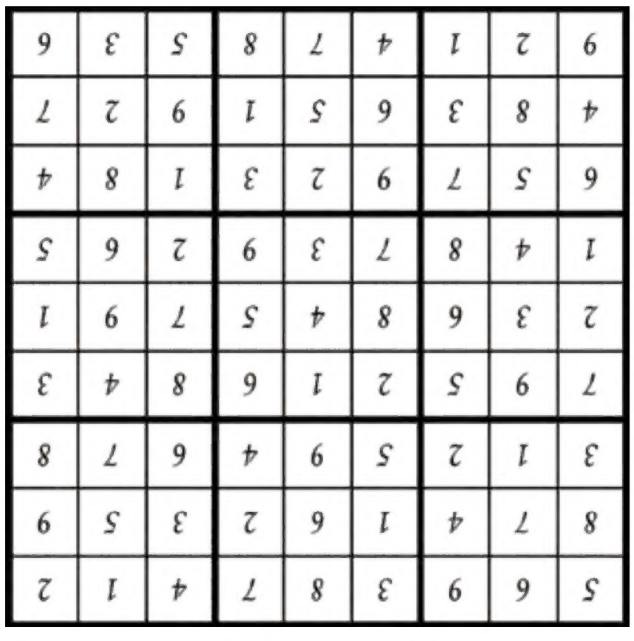

OBITUARIES

In Loving Memory of

Lesley Thacher
(nee Gray)

Resident of Haliburton

Peacefully at Highland Wood, surrounded by family, on January 18, 2026, in her 85th year. Loving mother of Greg, Lorrie, Karen, and her favourite niece, Denise Hall. Fondly remembered by her grandchildren, Nikki, Dylan, and Carson Metcalfe. Also remembered by her great-grandchildren, Kaleb Pereira, Millie, Nora, Margo, and Olivia Metcalfe.

Private Funeral Arrangements

As per Lesley's wishes, cremation has taken place. A burial in Riverside Cemetery – Toronto, will take place in the Spring. As an expression of sympathy, donations to a charity of your choice would be appreciated by the family. Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the **HALIBURTON COMMUNITY FUNERAL HOME**, 13523 Hwy #118, Haliburton, ON K0M 1S0 (705) 457-9209.

Community Funeral Home

In Loving Memory of

Anna Helene English
(nee Hodgson)

Resident of Haliburton

The English family wishes to announce the peaceful passing of our mom, grandma, great-grandma, aunt, and friend at the Haliburton Hospital on January 26, 2026, at the age of 97.

Mom was predeceased by her parents, Clayton and Phyllis Hodgson, her husband Vance English (1996), brothers Glen, Doug, and Louis Hodgson, and survived by her brother Tom Hodgson and sister Margaret Downey.

Loving mother of Robert English, Lou-Ann (Jerry) Harrison and Alison (Mike) Rae; grandma of Morgan English (2005), Krystal (Jeff) Ryan, Tiffany English (Dallas Latanville), Greg Harrison (Erin McLeod), Jeff (Stephanie) Harrison, Jack (Karys) Harrison, Kirsten Rae (Jason Ouellette), great-grandma of Van and Allie Ryan, Adalynn, Brynley and Sloane English, Brycen, Blakelee and Benton Harrison, Oaklie, Olsen and Ozzie Harrison, Carter and Cash Ouellette,.

Mom went to Grade 13 in Peterborough, then to Queen's University for a year before enrolling at Shaw's Business School in Toronto. On completion of secretarial courses, she was asked to go on staff as a teacher. At this time, Anna and Vance were married (1950) and after three years moved back to Haliburton when Anna became secretary at the Haliburton Highlands Secondary School and later became a teacher for 26 years in the Commercial Department until her retirement in 1979. Mom touched the lives of many students, some of whom stayed in contact with her for years.

Mom will be missed by her many nieces and nephews, friends, and her church family at Northland Faith Church.

As her favourite pastime, Mom knit and crocheted hundreds of baby blankets, which she donated to the Pregnancy Care & Family Support Centre, an organization very close to her heart.

The family wishes to express their deep gratitude and appreciation for the care and compassion shown to Mom by Dr. Scott Coles, the staff at the Haliburton Hospital, The Gardens of Haliburton, and Paramed.

Visitation & Memorial Service

Friends and family are invited to call on Monday, February 2, 2026, at 1:00 for a service in Anna's memory at the **HALIBURTON COMMUNITY FUNERAL HOME**, 13523 Hwy. #118 Haliburton, ON K0M 1S0 (705) 457-9209. Visitation from 10 – 12 (Noon). As an expression of sympathy, donations to the Pregnancy Care Centre or 4C's Food Bank would be appreciated by the family.

Community Funeral Home

FOR LEASE

UNIT FOR LEASE STEDMAN'S MALL

Last remaining unit #9 – 1066 Sq.Ft. Rent is $12/ Sq. Ft. & Includes TMI And Just Pay Own Utilities +HST. For more information please call Mike Guerra at Re/Max Hallmark Chay Realty @ 705-435-5556 or 416-592-0183

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@skycorlocksmithing

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FOR RENT – 1 Bedroom upper level apartment, screened porch, walking distance to downtown Haliburton, schools & hospital. No pets, non-smoker. $1,500. per month, includes heat, hydro, a/c and Satellite TV. Available March, call 705-455-9878

FOR RENT - Bright, clean hall available for rent, seating for up to 80 people. Facility is fully accessible. Ample parking. Conveniently located within 3 kilometers of the Haliburton Hospital. Full day and ½ day rentals available. Email halihhoa@gmail.com or call 705-457-9664

FOR RENT – 2 Bedroom or 1 Bedroom + sitting room, upper floor apartment, non-smoker. Located in rural area between Haliburton and Minden. Fridge & Stove, partially furnished. Rent is $750. including utilities, with first and last month's rent required. Applicants must have a full-time job and provide references. Please call 705-286-6208

FOR RENT

COMMERCIAL SPACE FOR RENT 162 Highland Street, 1500 Sq. ft – available February 1, 2026. Suitable for Retail Space. Contact Michael Easton at 705-457-8868 or e-mail to measton3@rogers.com

WORK WANTED

HALIBURTON MAN looking for work, Mason by trade, but familiar with all aspects of construction, reno's, demo, bush work, etc. Also, Chimney or Fireplace repair, Foundation repair, brick, block, stone, concrete & tile. Call Shannon Bond at 306-317-7073

NOTICE

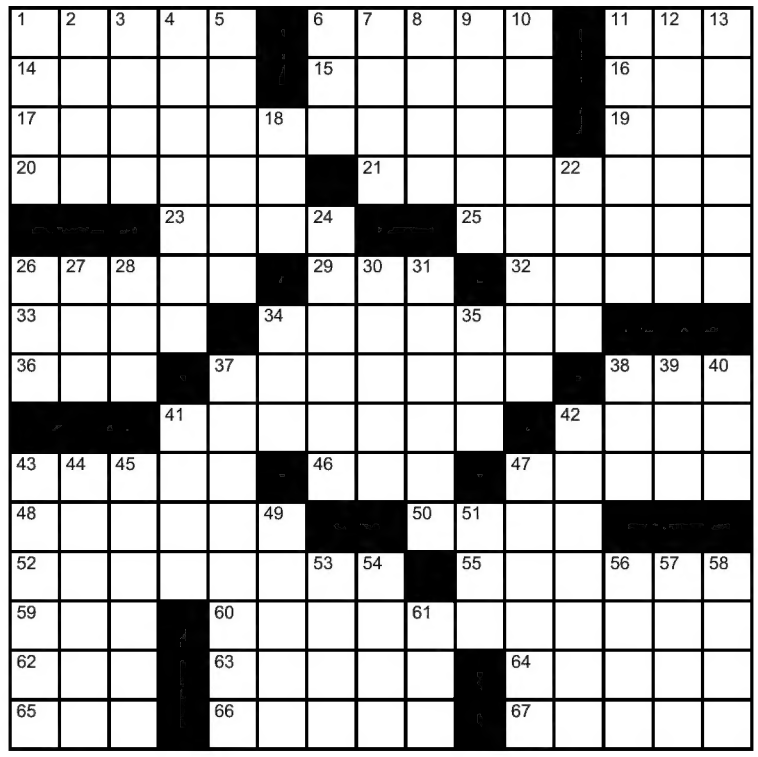
ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS MEETINGS - Sundays - 10:30 am at St. Anthony's, 27 Victoria Street Haliburton. Wednesdays - 7:00 PM at Highland Hills United Church, 21 Newcastle St. in Minden - rear door. Thinking about alcohol. Thinking about stopping. We've been there. We can help!

WWW.THEHIGHLANDER.CA

Highlander puzzles

Tweet, Tweet!

by Barbara Olson
© ClassiCanadian Crosswords



Across

1 In pieces
6 Sweats like a dog
11 Rockies hrs.
14 Copier ink
15 '60s funky painting style
16 German "bah!"
17 Shower caddy bottle, maybe
19 "I've told you ___ thousand times"
20 Delphi seer
21 Play a role (in)
23 Canadian shoe company
25 Pebbles' bigger cousins
26 End table items, often
29 "Mayberry ___" (old TV series)
32 Fancy cigar
33 Ice and Iron, for two
34 Despised outcasts
36 Automated emailer, e.g.
37 The best policy, it is said
38 Tartan topper
41 Punny reply to "Where's Fido?"
42 Good sign for a realtor?
43 "No dessert for me, I'm on ___"
46 Ending with acetyl- or ethyl-
47 Base runners?
48 Major favour
50 Days of ___
52 Base runner's place
55 Aggressive poker phrase
59 "Do Ya" band, for short
60 Golf birdie hidden in six pairs of this puzzle's answers
62 Naval clerk: Abbr.
63 Forcing O.T., maybe
64 Steak shaped like South America
65 Many retirees: Abbr.
66 "Ready, ___!"
67 Operating methods: Abbr.

Down

1 Worksite trailer brand
2 D-grade effort
3 Palindromic girl's name
4 Depot luggage luggers
5 Vibrato sounds
6 Baked taro root
7 "I would give all my fame for ___ of ale ...": Shak.
8 3-Down anagram
9 Arduous hikes
10 Like yoga or cycling pants
11 "Demain" in Spain
12 Player ending O.T.
13 "Oh, yeah?"
18 Nugent or Knight
22 Workers on The Hill, for short
24 Impossible word to rhyme
26 "I was working in the ___ late ..." ("Monster Mash" lyric)
27 Wistful one's word
28 Convened
30 Banned refrigerator gas
31 He said "That's the real trouble with the world. Too many people grow up"
34 '90s collectible disc
35 Had the biscuit?
37 Wi-Fi accessible areas
38 Overly
39 Not just some
40 Rx writers
41 Good price
42 Have great confidence in
43 Downton and others
44 Rotary phone user
45 Some domed homes
47 Signs at the end of les rues
49 West of rap
51 "Fact" or "human" suffix
53 Mtge.-based security
54 "___ Fu Fighting" (disco song)
56 TSX co. launches
57 "Milk" director Gus Van ___
58 " ___ Tu" (1974 hit)
61 Int'l Red Cross, e.g.

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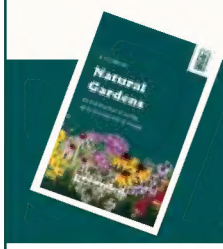

For a free guide to natural gardens in Haliburton County, visit groundedgardens.ca.

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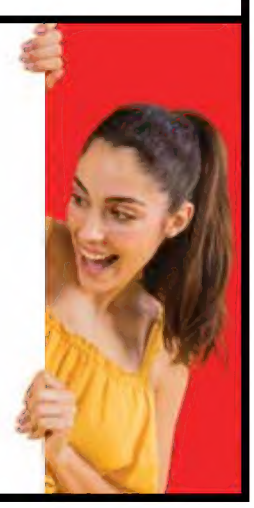

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Little Boshkung Lake $675,000

Beautiful 2+2 bedroom, 2-bathroom waterfront home on Little Boshkung Lake offering stunning views and easy, rock-free lake access-perfect for kids and family enjoyment. Situated in a welcoming neighbourhood with great neighbours and only 3 km from a general store with LCBO, this property provides a perfect blend of comfort, convenience, and lakeside living, combining family-friendly charm with excellent potential for personalization.

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1 | 2

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Highway 35
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